2002 REPORT TO CONGRESS

Over 200 school children planted trees and shrubs at the second annual Paradise Creek Watershed Festival. The October 2002 festival was part of the local match for a Clean Water Act section 319 project designed to construct a functional floodplain, recreate meanders, stabilize stream banks, and plant a native riparian vegetation buffer along Paradise Creek in northern Idaho.

Taking Plans to Action

STATE OF IDAHO NONPOINT SOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Department of
Environmental Quality
1410 North Hilton
Boise, ID 83706

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OVERVIEW

This *2002 Report to Congress* is divided into three main sections: 1) the summary results of the 2002 project field evaluation season, 2) a summary of four ongoing project "placed-based" focus areas, and 3) a summary of three projects completed during 2002.

During summer and fall 2002 the State of Idaho, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) evaluated 27 of 50 ongoing nonpoint source (NPS) contracted projects. Field evaluators recorded a variety of best management practices related to the seven recognized NPS sectors of logging, agriculture, mining, hydrologic-habitat modification, ground water, transportation, and urban stormwater runoff. The entire report containing all 27 evaluations, including full sets of photographs, is available for review on DEQ's Web site at: **http://www.deq.state.id.us/water/water1.htm**. Scroll down to "Nonpoint Source Management Program" and click on *"2002 Field Evaluation Progress Report for Idaho's NPS Program."*

Four ongoing project "placed-based" focus areas—Cascade Reservoir, Succor Creek of the Snake River, Jim Ford Creek of the Clearwater River, and Paradise Creek of the Columbia River—are highlighted in the 2002 report because they exemplify outstanding coordination, design, and implementation in four different geographic locations throughout the state of Idaho. Multiple individual 319 projects have been completed in each of these areas.

Completion reports were submitted for three projects during FY 2002. Contained in this annual Report to Congress are brief summaries for the Lower Boise River Coliform Bacteria DNA Testing Project, the OX Ranch Agriculture Best Management Practices Implementation Project, and the Ground and Surface Water Interaction Related to Nutrients Within Mason Creek Agricultural Drain Project.

SECTION 1

Results of the 2002 Project Field Evaluation Season

The State of Idaho, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) currently oversees approximately 50 active nonpoint source (NPS) regional projects in Idaho. To assure that the projects are completed in a timely manner and achieve their overarching goal of cleaning up and preventing NPS water pollution, all projects are subject to field evaluation by DEQ staff. DEQ staff set a goal to field evaluate the progress of half of the projects annually. Therefore, over a two-year cycle generally all of the ongoing projects will receive field evaluation. During the summer and fall of 2002, staff from the DEQ State Office exceeded its goal by evaluating 27 of 50 ongoing NPS contracted projects (Figure 1 and Table 1).

DEQ evaluators traveled to 21 geographical areas of Idaho and evaluated 27 contracted projects during the summer and fall of 2002. With the exception of two contracted projects on Coeur d'Alene tribal lands and three contracted projects covering the historic Rex Mill site near Coeur d'Alene, all of the contracted projects demonstrated substantial progress toward completing their designated tasks to reduce, eliminate, or prevent NPS water pollution.

Although some of the work on the two Coeur d'Alene tribal lands projects has been completed, most of the work has been repeatedly delayed due to two tribal management changes, proposed project adjustments, and bad weather. The U. S. Bureau of Land Management repeatedly delayed three mining related projects scheduled at Rex Mill, resulting in the withdrawal of NPS funding by DEQ. However, important reclamation work at this historic gold and silver mill will be achieved through other private and state funding sources.

Field work evaluated by DEQ staff on NPS projects included a variety of common best management practices (BMPs) related to the seven recognized NPS sectors of the 1999 *Idaho Nonpoint Source Management Plan*: logging, agriculture, mining, hydrologic-habitat modification, ground water, transportation, and urban storm water runoff. Evaluators examined work on road-related BMPs that overlap into all seven sectors. These BMPs included eradicating unneeded roadways, applying gravel to roadbeds, creating logging truck friendly rolling water bars, and installing fish friendly culverts. Other overlapping road-related BMPs observed included installing properly sloped roadbeds, planting drought resistant vegetation along road cuts and fills, and installing check dams along borrow ditches.

Many of the evaluated agriculture-related BMPs required education and close cooperation among farmers, ranchers, and numerous federal, state, and nonprofit organizations for implementation. These BMPs included installing vegetative buffer strips between crops and waterways, implementing no-till farming techniques, installing an array of agricultural runoff detention facilities, and planting suitable native vegetation in intermittent waterways that were formerly cultivated for crops. Evaluators also observed strategic placement of fencing to keep livestock out of streambeds, stream bank restoration, and the relocation of animal feeding operations (AFOs) away from waterways.

In the historic mining sector, evaluators observed BMPs designed to reduce or eliminate acid rock drainage. In order for acid rock drainage (caused by sulfuric acid) to form, three components (air, water, and sulfitic mine waste rock) must all be combined. Several BMPs observed in the field were designed to separate storm water and surface water from waste rock. The most common method to achieve separation involved capping and sloping mine waste rock to eliminate infiltration of surface water.

In the urban storm water runoff sector, evaluators toured stream channel restoration projects along Paradise Creek within the City of Moscow. Where the stream channel had been straightened, deepened, and lined with riprap in the mid-1900s to allow for development, a large and diverse group of stakeholders led by the Palouse-Clearwater Environmental Institute conducted a superb effort to recreate a meandering channel and floodplain. Other urban-related BMPs observed in Moscow and in Pocatello included the creation of wetlands and an innovative use of paleo-oxbow geomorphology to allow infiltration and clean storm water prior to discharge to streams.

To assist in tracking, each project is assigned a state contract number. If projects extend to several years and additional tasks and funding are granted, more than one state contract number may be assigned to a project area. Table 1 lists details of all 27 NPS contracted projects that were field evaluated during the summer and fall of 2002. These 27 different projects occurred at 21 sites around Idaho.

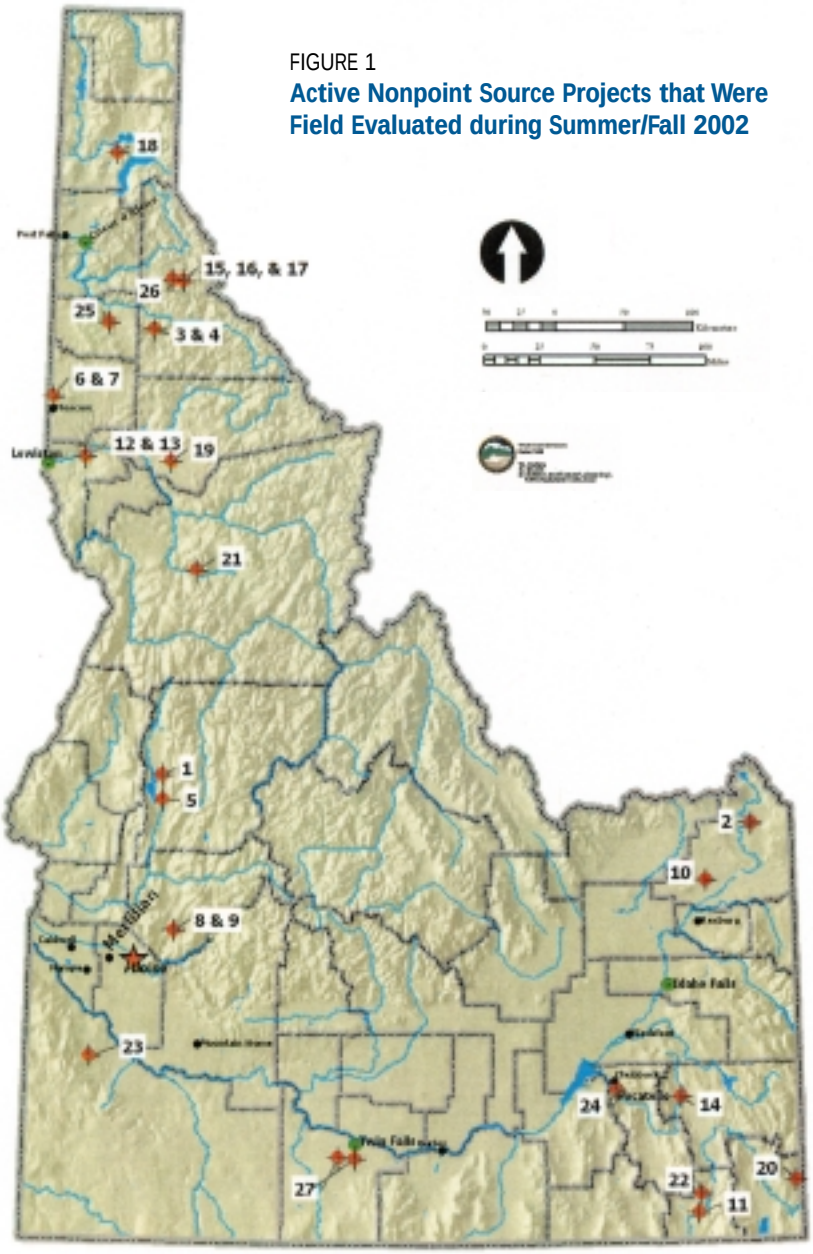

FIGURE 1
Active Nonpoint Source Projects that Were Field Evaluated during Summer/Fall 2002

TABLE 1

Active Nonpoint Source Projects That Were Field Evaluated during Summer/Fall 2002

Map Ref.[a]	Grant Year	Contract Number[b]	Project Name	Hydrologic Unit No.	Tasks or BMPs[b] Evaluated	Evaluator	DEQ Region
1	1999	Q525	Cascade Reservoir, Watershed and Roads	17050123	Sediment control BMPs for dirt roads	J. West	Boise
2	1998	Q444	Sheridan Creek Restoration	17040202	Stream bank stabilization, fencing, grazing plans, weed control	D. Reaney	Idaho Falls
3,4	1998, 1999	Q529 and Q366	Coeur d'Alene Tribe Wetland Creation and Restoration, Lake Creek – Plummer	1701030423	Sediment control BMPs for dirt roads	J. West	Coeur d'Alene
5	1999	Q558	Cascade Reservoir Watershed Roads and Forested Lands	17050123	Sediment control BMPs for dirt roads	J. West	Boise
6,7	1999, 2000	Q605 and Q562	Paradise Creek TMDL[d] Implementation #1and #2	17060108	Sediment control BMPs for dirt roads, grazing plans, relocation of AFOs[e], fencing, crop management, stream channel rehabilitation, wetlands	J. West	Lewiston
8,9	1999, 2000	Q564 and S009	Scriver Creek Watershed Roads and Forested Lands	17050112	Sediment control BMPs for dirt roads	J. West	Boise
10	2000	Q608	Ashton Ground Water Protection	17040203	Nutrient management of crops	D. Reaney	Idaho Falls
11	2000	Q609	Bear River Fencing and Riparian Enhancement	16010202	Stream bank stabilization, fencing, grazing plans, weed control	D. Reaney	Pocatello
12, 13	2000, 2001	S011 and Q610	Winchester Lake Watershed NPSF Implementation and Upper Lapwai Creek Watershed	17060306	Sediment control BMPs for dirt roads	J. West	Lewiston
14	2000	S008	Twenty-Four Mile Creek TMDL Implementation	17040208	Stream bank stabilization, fencing, grazing plans, weed control	D. Reaney	Pocatello
15, 16, 17	1998, 1999, 2000	Q557,Q336, and S012	Completion of Designed Water Management at Rex Mill Site, E. Fork Ninemile Creek	17010302	ARD[g] control. Project terminated by 319 and refunded through other sources	J. West	Coeur d'Alene
18	2001	S014	Trestle Creek Watershed Conservation	17010214	Sediment control BMPs for dirt roads, conservation easements	J. West	Coeur d'Alene
19	2001	S015	Jim Ford Creek Watershed Enhancement	17060306	Sediment control BMPs for dirt roads, grazing plans, relocation of AFOs, fencing, crop management	J. West	Lewiston
20	2001	S016	Thomas Fork Stream Bank Protection	16010102	Sediment control BMPs for dirt roads	J. West	Pocatello
21	2001	S017	Phase 1 South Fork of Cottonwood Creek TMDL Implementation	17060305	Sediment control BMPs for dirt roads, grazing plans, relocation of AFOs, fencing, crop management	J. West	Lewiston
22	2001	S018	Porter Riparian Restoration Cub River	16010202	Stream bank stabilization, fencing, grazing plans	M. Shumar	Pocatello
23	2001	S019	Succor Creek/Homedale School District – Water Quality	17050103	Stream bank stabilization, agricultural irrigation water cleanup, fencing	D. Abderhalden	Boise

Map Ref.[a]	Grant Year	Contract Number[b]	Project Name	Hydrologic Unit No.	Tasks or BMPs[b] Evaluated	Evaluator	DEQ Region
24	2001	S022	North City Park Wetland	17040208	Storm water infiltration BMPs	J. West	Pocatello
25	2001	S024	Santa Creek Streambank Protection and Stability	17010304	Stream bank stabilization BMPs	J. West	Coeur d'Alene
26	2001	S025	Success Mill Site	17010302	ARD control, metal ion extraction from ground water	J. West	Coeur d'Alene
27	2001	S026	Rock Creek Rehabilitation	17040212	Variety of storm water infiltration BMPs	B. Clark	Twin Falls

[b] More than one contract number for a project indicates that additional funding was later granted for additional tasks.
[c] Best management practices
[d] Total maximum daily load
[e] Animal feeding operations
[f] Nonpoint source
[g] Acid rock drainage